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## **US-Taiwan-China**

- Recently the Speaker of the US House of Representatives visited Taiwan, the highest level US official to visit the island since 1997. The visit has increased tensions between the US and China.



### **Taiwan-China issue:**

- Taiwan is about 160 km from the coast of southeast China. Far away is an island, opposite the Chinese cities of Fuzhou, Quanzhou and Xiamen.

### **History:**

- It was administered by the Imperial dynasty, but its control was passed to the Japanese in 1895.
- The island returned to Chinese hands after Japan's defeat in World War II.

- Nationalist Kuomintang Party leader Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan in 1949 after the Communists led by Mao Zedong won the civil war in mainland China.
- Chiang Kai-shek established the government of the Republic of China on the island and remained president until 1975.
- The Government of the Republic of China (ROC) was transferred to Taiwan after the division of China and Taiwan in the civil war. On the other hand the Communist Party of China (CPC) established the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the mainland.
- Since then, the PRC views Taiwan as a treasonous province and awaits reunification with Taiwan by peaceful means, if possible.

### **Present situation:**

- China has never recognized its existence as an independent political entity, arguing that Taiwan has always been a Chinese province.
- But there have been economic ties between China and Taiwan.
- Many Taiwanese expatriates work in China and China has invested in Taiwan.

### **US policy towards Taiwan:**

- It has continued the 'One China' policy since the 1970s, under which it sees Taiwan as part of China.
- The 'One China' policy means that nations that wish to have diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC) must sever ties with the Republic of China (ROC) and refer to the ROC as China, not the PRC.
- Under this policy the communist government in mainland China was the legitimate representative and Taiwan was a separate part of it.
- But it also has informal relations with Taiwan.

- But it also has informal ties with Taiwan and helps Taiwan defend the island from external aggression by providing military-equipment and intelligence.

### **China's concerns regarding travel:**

- As China considers Taiwan as part of its territory, it claimed that the visit would seriously undermine China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- It could seriously undermine the foundation of Sino-US relations and sends a seriously wrong signal to Taiwan's independence forces.
- According to China, the presence of a senior American figure in Taiwan would indicate US support for Taiwan's independence.

### **Indian policy towards Taiwan:**

- India also follows the One China policy and does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan. But it has an office in Taipei for diplomatic work.
- The India-Taipei Association (ITA) is headed by a senior diplomat.
- While Taiwan has Taipei Economic and Cultural Center (TECC) in New Delhi.
- India-Taiwan relations were originally centered on trade, commerce, culture and education.
- In recent days, India has further strengthened its relations with Taiwan after China's verbal war in Galwan.
- The Indian government had chosen a diplomat to be its ambassador in Taipei.
- Simultaneously, two MPs of the ruling party attended the swearing-in ceremony of the President of Taiwan through virtual mode.

## Importance of Taiwan:

- Semiconductors are such an important component that is useful for powering electronics from computers and smart phones to brake sensors in cars.
- The production of chips involves a complex network of firms that design or manufacture them, as well as those who supply the technology.
- Most semiconductors are produced in Taiwan and it dominates outsourcing semiconductor manufacturing.
- In addition, its contract manufacturers accounted for more than 60% of total global semiconductor revenue last year.

Swadeep Kumar

## ICT Tools & Digital Interventions

- Recently the Education Minister informed the Lok Sabha that less than 10% of schools in at least 10 states of India are equipped with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment or digital equipment.



## ICT Equipment:

- ICT tools for teaching and learning range from digital infrastructure like printers, computers, laptops, tablets etc. to software tools like Google Meet, Google Spreadsheet etc.
- It refers to all communication technologies that are tools to access, retrieve, store, transmit and modify information digitally.
- ICT is also used to refer to the convergence of telephone networks with media technologies such as audio-visual and computer networks through an integrated system of cabling (including signal distribution and management) or link systems.

- Although given that the concepts, methods and tools involved in ICT are constantly evolving on an almost daily basis, there is no universally accepted definition of ICT.

### **Digital Interval:**

- It is the difference between demographics and areas with and without access to modern information and communication technology (ICT).
- It exists between developed and developing countries, urban and rural populations, young and educated versus older and less educated individuals, men and women.
- The urban-rural divide is the biggest factor in the digital gap in India.

### **Situation:**

- A study conducted by the Azim Premji Foundation in 2021 showed that almost 60% of school children in India cannot access online learning opportunities.
- An Oxfam India study found that parents of students from urban private schools reported problems with internet signal and speed.

### **Influence:**

#### **Reasons for Dropout and Child Labour:**

- Children belonging to the 'Economically Weaker Sections' [EWS]/Deprived Groups [DG] are facing the consequences of not completing their education, as well as the lack of access to the Internet and computers in the meantime.
- Those children have also become vulnerable to child labor or child trafficking.

### **Lack of quality education:**

- It will deprive people of high/quality education and skill training which can help them to contribute to the economy and be a guiding leader at the global level.



### **Fostering unfair competition:**

- They will remain deprived of important information submitted online regarding education and thus they will always be left behind, which can be expressed in the form of poor performance.
- Thus fostering unfair competition between students who are able to access the Internet and those who are less privileged.

### **Learning Inequality:**

- People from lower socio-economic classes are disadvantaged and they have to go through long hours of cumbersome study to fulfill the objectives of the course.
- Whereas the rich can easily access schooling material online and work on their programs instantly.

### **Constitutional Provision for Right to Education**

- Article 45 and Article 39 (f) of Part-IV (Directive Principles of State Policy -DPSP) of the original Indian Constitution made provision for equal and accessible education funded by the state.
- Right to education was included as a fundamental right in Part-III of the Constitution by the 86th Constitutional Amendment in the year 2002.
- It was included under Article 21A, which made the right to education for 6-14 year olds a fundamental right.
- It provided for a follow-up law, the Right to Education Act, 2009.

**Swadeep Kumar**

# Significance of hosting the UNSC Meet by India: An Analysis

**Context:** First time India will be hosting the UNSC Meet. In this Meet, 15 members of the UNSC, including 5 permanent members (China, Russia, Britain, France, and the USA) and 10 temporary members will participate. The core topic of the UNSC Meet would be Terrorism. This meeting will be held in the month of October (29th October) in Delhi and Mumbai

## Introduction

- Terrorism has been the core problem for all the democratic countries of the world. Terrorism could not be curtailed up to now because some countries of the world, are funding and promoting terrorism for their own political and diplomatic interests. To counter international terrorism a committee “Counter-terrorism Committee” was founded in 2001 by UNSC. This CTC is now chaired by India. In October, a specific meeting would be called for discussing the measures to counter the Global Terrorism
- New Delhi is expected to highlight cross-border threats from Pakistan and Afghanistan at the meeting, which will come two months before India completes its tenure as an elected member of the UNSC (2021-22). Besides, India which has been pushing for opting for comprehensive measures against global terrorism for a long time would like to get the support of the big countries of the world against cross-border terrorism. India has been the victim of cross-border terrorism for a long time

## Changing Nature of Terrorism

- The nature of global terrorism has changed. Now the terrorist are been financially supported by some countries like Pakistan. However, this financial support is recognized but the Action against this financial support would also be needed to curtail global terrorism
- the CTC meeting in India could also pave the way for a possible visit to New York by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December when India

will be the President of the UNSC for the entire month. Indian Prime minister Narendra Modi had already chaired the UNSC in Aug 2021 during the COVID- 19 Pandemic.

## **The role of India against the Global Terrorism**

- In fact, India has been the victim of terrorism for a long time. Terrorism in India is not the activities of the discount people against the government of India. Terrorism in India is a provoked and Pakistan-supported terrorism that has been promoted by Pakistan just after the partition. However, the internal disturbance can also be accepted.
- Terrorism in the northeast states is also an issue of concern which had evolved because of the issue of their cultural integrity. But nowadays, terrorism in Northeast states is also the result of cross-border activity. Some of the Naga rebels are sheltered by the China government, India should raise the issue of Global terrorism in front of the world. terrorism is the act of inhuman and it should not be associated with any religion or political ambitions.

## **Conclusion**

India is the world's largest democratic country. Now India is chairing the CTC. Before the ending of the membership of India as an elected member of the UNSC, the hosting of the UNSC Meet on the issue of counter-terrorism is a big diplomatic achievement for India. India has been elected as the temporary member of the UNSC for the 8th time. Therefore India has great weightage in UNSC. India should use this opportunity and should get the support of the world against the cross border terrorism as well as the global terrorism

**Anshul**